



Joint Information Center (JIC)

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT

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NEMA Daily Update from JIC

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

(Lincoln, Neb.) – Flood response efforts continue across the state as damage assessment teams continue to work to discover the extent of damages to Nebraska bridges, roads and other public property.

Flood Hotline

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, **(888) 656-6045**, is staffed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily until further notice.

Road Closures

Call 511 or “know before you go” at www.511nebraska.org for up-to-the minute road condition information.

Recent Road Openings

Highway 81 open south of Norfolk.

Behavioral Health

When new assessment teams go out next week, behavioral health professionals will be part of those teams.

Fire safety

The State Fire Marshal would like to remind citizens that if your power is out and you need to use a generator. Before you use your generator, be sure your generator has been tested and approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits. Also, continue to be cautious whenever there's a threat of lightening.

Shelters

Red Cross - Starting today, the two remaining Red Cross “shelters” will become “comfort stations.” This means the two remaining shelters will not be open at night. The comfort stations

will be open during the day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The two shelters are: Norfolk City Auditorium at 127 N. 1st Street, Norfolk and the Elkhorn Middle School at 3200 N. 207th Plaza in Elkhorn.

Call 211 (a human services helpline) to find out what resources are available. Most of the state can access 211 now, or they can call (402) 444-6666.

Weather

Flooding continues along the North Platte River across the panhandle, the Platte River at Kearney and Ashland. Flooding also continues along the Elkhorn River at Pilger, West Point and Hooper. On the Missouri River, flooding continues at Nebraska City, Brownville and Rulo.

A FLOOD WATCH is in effect for much of northeast Nebraska valid from this evening through Monday morning. Rainfall amounts still look heaviest across northeast Nebraska. There is a possible bull's eye of 3+ inches from this morning through Tuesday 7a.m. across northeast Nebraska, with a widespread 1-2 inches possible through this time period across much of the eastern half of the state. Lower amounts (less than 0.25 inches) are possible across the panhandle region where concerns of flows on both the North and South Platte continue.

The rate of rise and crest on the rivers and streams is HIGHLY dependent on where the precipitation falls and into which basin. Rises on all area rivers and streams is likely if the forecasted precipitation amounts are accurate.

A nearly stationary front along the Nebraska-Kansas border will slowly shift north as a warm front this afternoon and will be the focus for another round of thunderstorms tonight. There is a slight risk for severe weather across the entire state tonight. The best chances for a severe weather outbreak will be across much of the southern half of the state. Large hail and damaging winds are possible, in addition to heavy rainfall.

From Sunday through Monday, there is a slight risk for severe weather across all of Nebraska. Again, damaging wind and large hail will be the primary threats, in addition to heavy rainfall. An important focus for tonight and the next few days will continue to be the rainfall associated with thunderstorms that are expected to develop along the nearly stalled front that stretches east to west across Nebraska. Previous rainfall has left the soils wet and rivers high, especially on stretches of the Elkhorn and Platte Rivers. The National Weather Service will closely monitor the forecast track of the storms for possible flood warnings should heavy rains focus on areas which have already been hit.

Additional weather information can be found at www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com.

River Levels

Check out <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/> for river-related information.

Municipal Water Supplies

Water testing – Homeowners can order kits from the State Lab by calling (402) 471-3935 and request the Colilert test kit (\$10) which will test for Coliform and E.coli. The homeowner needs to collect the sample and return it to the state lab within 30 hours of sample collection. Local health departments are also a good resource. Remember, if your drinking water looks, tastes

or smells odd, test it. Even if the water is okay the first time, it should be tested again to make sure bacteria hasn't permeated later.

Insurance

The Nebraska Department of Insurance has a flood insurance claims guide available on their website. Also, the Department has a Consumer Affairs Division available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., by calling 1-877-564-7323 with any insurance-related questions.

Farmers should report flood losses to the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). www.fsa.usda.gov

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The Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at dhhs.ne.gov/SevereStorms.

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DISASTER INFORMATION FROM:

Nebraska Joint Information Center, 1800 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, 68503.

For more information call: (402) 471-7210 or (402) 471-7211.

*Access information on flooding in Nebraska
on the DHHS Twitter and Facebook pages. Click links below:*

<http://twitter.com/NebraskaDHHS>

<http://www.facebook.com> search "Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services"